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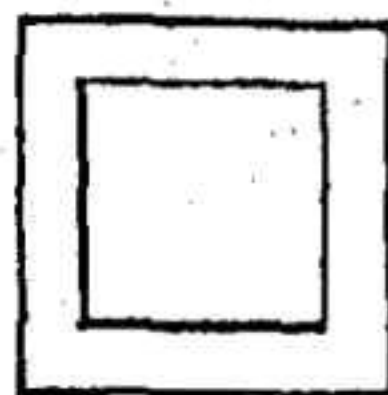
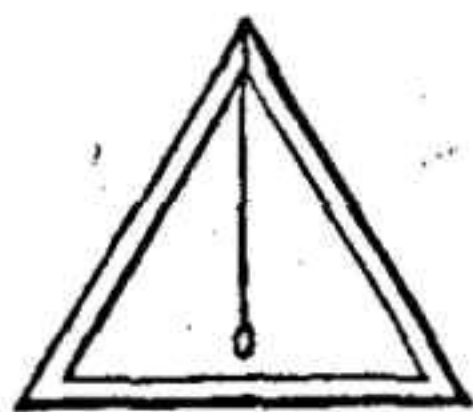
THE  
LOST MYSTERIES  
OF  
FREEMASONRY  
*Explained;*

PROVING THAT THE HIDDEN WISDOM OF THE ANCIENT  
EGYPTIANS CONSISTED OF ASTRONOMICAL TRUTHS,  
WHICH OUGHT TO BE KNOWN TO EVERY MASTER MASON;



ALSO SHEWING

What is really intended by the Mysterious Sculptures of Antiquity,  
AND DEMONSTRATING THE TRUE MEANING OF TRANSMIGRATION.



A LECTURE

DELIVERED ON MONDAY, 7<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 1862, AT THE MECHANICS' INSTITUTE,

By LOUIS L. SMITH, Esq., M.P.



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Lost mysteries?

## PREFACE.

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CONFESSIONS of Mr. Allyn, a Freemason, as extracted from a Masonic Work well known in the United States of America:—"I began to examine the Institution, and found the whole system to be—what the world now knows it to be—a sink of moral corruption, where every species of intrigue and hypocrisy is carried on under the veil of antiquity, morality, and charity." Such is the language used in America towards the Craft. I am not willing to endorse the foregoing confession, although I do maintain, as I ever did from the commencement of my inquiry into Masonry, that there are in fact no mysteries at present known to the Order, and that the Blue Lodges only retain idle and inane secret ceremonies. These I have considered it my duty to explain, in order to prove that Masonry is no longer what it was and what it ought to be. After perusing this Lecture, Masons themselves must admit that there is more in *true* Masonry than they ever imagined.

Companions will perceive that nothing has been elucidated respecting the Royal Arch, but in my next Lecture it will be necessary to make reference to that degree—the only one in Masonry worth preserving.

Louis L. Smith



THE  
LOST MYSTERIES OF MASONRY  
EXPLAINED.

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It is generally considered among Masons, that the ceremonies of the Order have ever corresponded with the Egyptian mysteries; but there is a *vast* difference between ceremonies and mysteries. That Masons to this day may be governed by the same ceremonies as were the Egyptians is probable, although no one can tell what the Egyptian ceremonies really were; but as to MYSTERIES of any kind, the Masons themselves admit that those they once possessed are lost, and that their duty and their labour ought to be directed in endeavouring to rediscover them. From what will be shown, it will appear almost certain that formerly there was an oral communication between all civilised nations, and that astronomy was the basis of one universal language, which could be translated into the tongue of every people. The language was that of pictures; for instance, a ram is the sign Aries; the Hebrews call it "Nisan," but still Nisan denotes "a ram," so the Budhists say the sign is "Meesa," which interpreted means "ram," and the Egyptians call Aries "Amon" or "Omon." Masonry, such as it is, continues to be an *oral* speech among most nations. Records are not allowed to be written respecting any of the secrets belonging to the Order. Astronomical science, I say, formerly enshrined the mysteries, and sufficient evidence shall be adduced to prove this fact, and also that astronomy or the Masonic knowledge reigned triumphant throughout the world, and the chiefs of enlightened men ruled the great family of mankind. Then was Masonry indeed the universal creed; even now any master of the arts and science of Masonry, if he be able to speak the language of the residents, can without difficulty enter any foreign Lodge in Europe

IN assisting in the preparation of this Lecture, I have endeavoured to bear in mind the wise saying of the preacher, that "Of making many books there is no end, and much study is a weariness of the flesh." I have therefore claimed support from few authors, and those few are orthodox and celebrated ecclesiastics. I am indebted to the Abbés Pluche and Montfaucon, and to Dr. A. Jamieson, and to the Revs. J. Flamsteed and G. S. Faber for confirmation of my discoveries.

It may be worthy of notice, that the three authors on whom I chiefly rely were contemporaneous or nearly so. Montfaucon published his second edition of his *Antiquities* in 1722; Flamsteed died in 1719, and Pluche's work was published some twenty years afterward. It was about this time that Masons began to "*tremble for their secrets*," and their last desperate act to render them incomprehensible (excepting to the highest among the Order) was in robbing the calendar of eleven days during the year 1752; and this will be fully explained in the next Lecture.

HENRY MELVILLE.



and even any Brahminical Lodge of Asia; indeed, the Masonic ceremonies are the same, or nearly so, among all civilised nations, and among some that are not civilised; for it is asserted that Masonry is practised amongst the American Indian tribes, and there are ceremonies performed by the aborigines of Victoria very similar to those known amongst the Masonic Brethren; indeed it is not many months since that the South Australian traveller Stuart reported having fallen in with a tribe of aborigines in the interior, who made him the Masonic pass signs, and then treated him on friendly terms.

The astronomical pictures were denoted by types or characters: thus the sign  $\varphi$ , which means the Latin Aries, the Egyptian Amon, the Buddhist Meesa, and the English Ram; in fact the  $\varphi$  was an universal character known to all nations, amongst whom astronomy was studied. I more particularly select this sign Aries to demonstrate my meaning, because it is the most important; it is *princeps signorum et ductor exercitus zodiaci*, but any other Celestial sign would apply; for instance,  $\delta$  is the universal astronomical type for Taurus the Bull; and  $\wp$  is that which denotes the planet Venus, but of this sign more hereafter. These astronomical types in process of time were succeeded by more definite characters: thus the Hebrews have letters which represent pictures, and at the same time denote numbers; for instance, א *Aleph* means "an ox or teacher," and numerically is "one," and ב *Beth* is "a house," and denotes "two," and ג *Gimel* is "a camel," and is "three," and so on through the alphabet; the Greek letters are also numerals. Our common Roman letters have no such occult meaning: the A B C neither denote numbers nor objects.

The mysteries of Astronomy were confined strictly to the Masonic Order, but the Brethren by some means allowed portions of these mysteries to escape, which became disseminated amongst the people, and gave rise to that incomprehensible science denominated Astrology. The etymology of both words is from the Greek—Astronomy meaning "*the law of the stars*," Astrology the "*speech or language of the stars*"; in other words, astronomy was the *escoteric* law of the initiated learned, whilst astrology was the *exoteric* knowledge, which knowledge all people had liberty to hear and to understand if they could. We are led to believe that astrology was a science by which men of former ages predicted events, and in one sense that is true enough, for all astronomers who calculate and foretell eclipses and conjunctions are astrologers, for they prophecy that which will take



place; but to suppose that any man can possess the power of predicting the fate of his own fellow-creature is a monstrous absurdity and a popular error. The sacrifices of animals on the altar, the examination of the entrails, and the flight of birds, etc. are all purely astronomical allegories, so also the oracles, with their mysterious responses, are mere figurative fabrications of the ancient poets, who were initiated into the knowledge of the celestial mysteries. That there still lingers a pretension to astrology is evident; the gipsies to this day dispense their miraculous knowledge of futurity, and they dispose of fate, rendering it good or evil, just in proportion to the amount of gratuity offered by the applicants. These gipsies have Masonic ceremonies among them, and they claim to be derived from Egypt, and their name of gipsy is nothing more or less than *Ægyptii*, the people of Egypt, according to our learned; and from the Egyptians, as it has been already observed, Masons claim their ceremonies.

Until, comparatively speaking, modern times, the Jews or Hebrews had an oral language peculiarly their own; it was called the *CABALA*. By means of the *CABALA*, tradition was handed down, and communicated to the Rabbins; it enabled them to unfold all the mysteries of divinity, and to expound the Scriptures of the Ancients; "*Cabal*" means a secret class or council *con-clavis*, just similar to the masonic lodges. There is every reason to believe that the *CABALA* was pure Masonry; in confirmation, the Freemasons preserve the *CABALA* among their mystic ceremonies. The *CABALA* is the Lodge tiled or locked,—*conclavis* and the "*Tau*" is the cross or terminus at the equinox. When the Sun enters Aries it is then the Alpha and the Omega—the beginning and the end; the *tau*, with the *Cabala* added thereto, gives the *Cabal-tau*, so well known to the Masons. The Jews, as already stated, are from *Egypt*, and they preserved the *Cabal-tau*, among other Masonic ceremonies. The Masonic Ritual says, the secrets of the Order passed from them with Hiram Abiff, which should be Ab Eph, which is thus written: א *Aleph*, ב *Beth*, פ *Phe*, and means "Father of *Eph*." But who is Eph? Literally, *Aleph* means "ox" or "bull," *Beth* "house," and *Phe* or *Eph* "mouth,"—"the house of the bull's mouth." Although the Brethren are told that Hiram's death was the cause of the Masonic mysteries being lost, yet nevertheless they are informed in what manner, after Hiram was slain, he rose again from the dead: and the ceremony of his resurrection is practically demonstrated at



the raising of every Master Mason. Hiram was the chief builder of the Temple of Solomon; in what manner he became acquainted with the Egyptian knowledge, Masons do not pretend to determine. That Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians cannot be disputed, and Moses is claimed as belonging to the Craft, but what relation Hiram bears to Moses, Masons cannot now tell, nor do they attempt to explain the connexion. As to the mystic records still preserved of Egyptian knowledge, not the least notice is taken of them by the Fraternity. The meaning of the ancient sculptures, that are in reality nothing more nor less than Masonic symbols, are perfectly incomprehensible to the Craft. Here, for example, is a Masonic picture,—a woman suckling a child; the woman has a heifer's head,—it is a mere copy from Montfaucon's *Antiquities*\*, and as the work is in the Melbourne Public Library, any one may examine the plate and read the explanation thereof, which amounts, in other words, to this, that it is Isis, the Egyptian goddess, suckling young Osiris. Now, Isis is but another name for the moon, and Osiris is the sun. Then the sculpture indicates that the moon is the parent of the infant sun; but why give the woman the heifer's head? We read in the Bible that "Egypt is like a very fair heifer," but what does that mean? In order to interpret this *apparently* unnatural and absurd combination, it is necessary to understand certain astronomical laws, which will we be referred to presently. Masons probably never heard it mooted that the Egyptian mysteries had any reference to those of the Budhists of Ceylon. It is, however, a well-known fact that the Brahmins are a Masonic order, and so are the priestly Budhists. Among the Ceylonese are bull-headed or heifer-headed human beings; for example, there is *Uttrapal*, whose symbol is a peacock, or pavo of the heavens; he has an ox head, and what is remarkable is, that he has three eyes, in fact he is *triocculi*; and one of the Greek names of Jupiter is *Triocculi*; and although Juno is not generally admitted to be Isis of Egypt, yet, nevertheless, Ox-eyed Juno is one of her appellatives. Bulls with human heads are common enough amongst the antiquities of Egypt, and one from Nineveh, introduced into London some few years back, excited public attention, but no conclusion could be arrived at as to its true intent and meaning. The fable of Columbus making the egg stand upright is too well known to require repetition. Most mysteries become clear and intelligible enough

\* Plate 105, vol. ii.







when explained; so now let the Egyptian Masonic mysteries be revealed, by asserting that these strange compound symbols are nothing more nor less than astronomical combinations, directing, as it were, like a finger-post to that point in the Heavens when the sun rises in his strength in the East, to enlighten the world, and in like manner does the Worshipful Master to this day rise in the East, to enlighten his Lodge.

Here is another Buddhist figure taken from the same author (Upham's History of Buddhism); it is "Uttrāpūlupah," whose symbol is a monster serpent or *serpens* of our atlases. It has the three-eyed heifer-headed or bull-headed object, as the last described, but the figure has a bow and arrow. The sign Sagittarius is the bowman, and not unfrequently called the bow; and in the sign Sagittarius is the constellation of Sagitta, the arrow; the type of the sign Sagittarius is the arrow. Well, it so happens that in the sign Sagittarius there is a young bull or heifer, or calf, and this animal, with the Masonic laws alluded to, interprets every portion of the ancient history of Apis, which every scholar knows was adored by the Egyptians at Memphis. After his death, as it will be shewn, Apis is exalted to Heaven, and there he is now to be seen soon after sunset every evening.

Astronomical Masons never inserted the names of the constellations in their celestial atlases, but in modern times, in order to more effectually HIDE *their mysteries*, they gave such appellatives to the heavenly objects as would mislead those who would be seeking after truth. For example, instead of calling the animal in Sagittarius, "Apis Junior," they have fixed him as "Taurus Poniatowski," and thus were all the interesting stories of Apis at once destroyed, from the want of knowing that "Taurus Poniatowski" was but another name for the Egyptian Apis. Thus you will perceive they effectually stifled all attempts at unravelling the ancient mysteries. Now, let me give you another example. Montfaucon, in his *History of Antiquities Explained*, gives a copy of an ancient sculpture—a one-breasted woman giving the teat to a full-grown bull in the presence of an eagle, which, astronomically speaking, is known as "Aquila."\* This, it will be perceived, is the reverse of the former illustration. There is something remarkable about this single-breasted woman; especially so, when it is remembered that the Amazons were warlike women of Asia, who cut or burnt off their

\* See Frontispiece.



right breasts, and killed all their male children. Fortunately for the honour of the female sex, these unnatural women were destroyed by Hercules. Modern scholars, whether Masons or others, have never dreamt that the Egyptian figures handed down to us were of an astronomical authority, alike referring to the past, the present, and the future,—indeed, nothing is known of the THEORETICAL portion of astronomy, which, in truth, is the same as *the lost mysteries of speculative Masonry*. The Melbourne Public Library contains only one celestial atlas wherein the constellations are properly laid down, and I can vouch thus much,—that in the Parliamentary Library there is not a solitary celestial atlas, nor even a celestial globe. Formerly the heavens were more studied than the earth, but in these enlightened times everything is of the earth,—earthly. Masons, then, being builders of heavenly stones, can it be wondered that their astronomical knowledge has passed from them, when their records are hidden and to them lost; but though lost to the *Order*, it will be proved that their knowledge is not destroyed.

With regard to the Egyptian mysteries, the Abbé Pluche, in his *History of the Heavens*, published in Paris in 1738, says, “that the people, in their fanatic enthusiasm, would have torn in pieces any that should have dared to deny the history of Osiris and Isis; truth was then altered and obscured by the very priests. They first accustomed themselves to these notions because it was dangerous not to comply with them, and afterwards became themselves the most zealous defenders of them. The whole came on by degrees. They first *complicd* with the *common* language, because they could not stem the torrent; but they studied in *private* what they could collect of the interpretation of the ancient writing. Thus they at once admitted both the popular stories, and the explication that demolished them; they only took care to require profound secrecy from those whom they would instruct in a more solid manner.”\* There can be no doubt but that Pluche, when speaking of the Egyptian priests, merely quoted from other authors, who referred to the priestly Order of Masons, for it was the *Masonic Brethren* that first deluded the multitude, and then, frightened for their secrets, did all they could to smother the truth to all, excepting a few whom they thought proper to initiate. The Abbé Pluche continues, “It was a mysterious theology which they initiated, and took great care not to divulge. Those who were initiated therein engaged themselves, by an oath,



Utropulupah

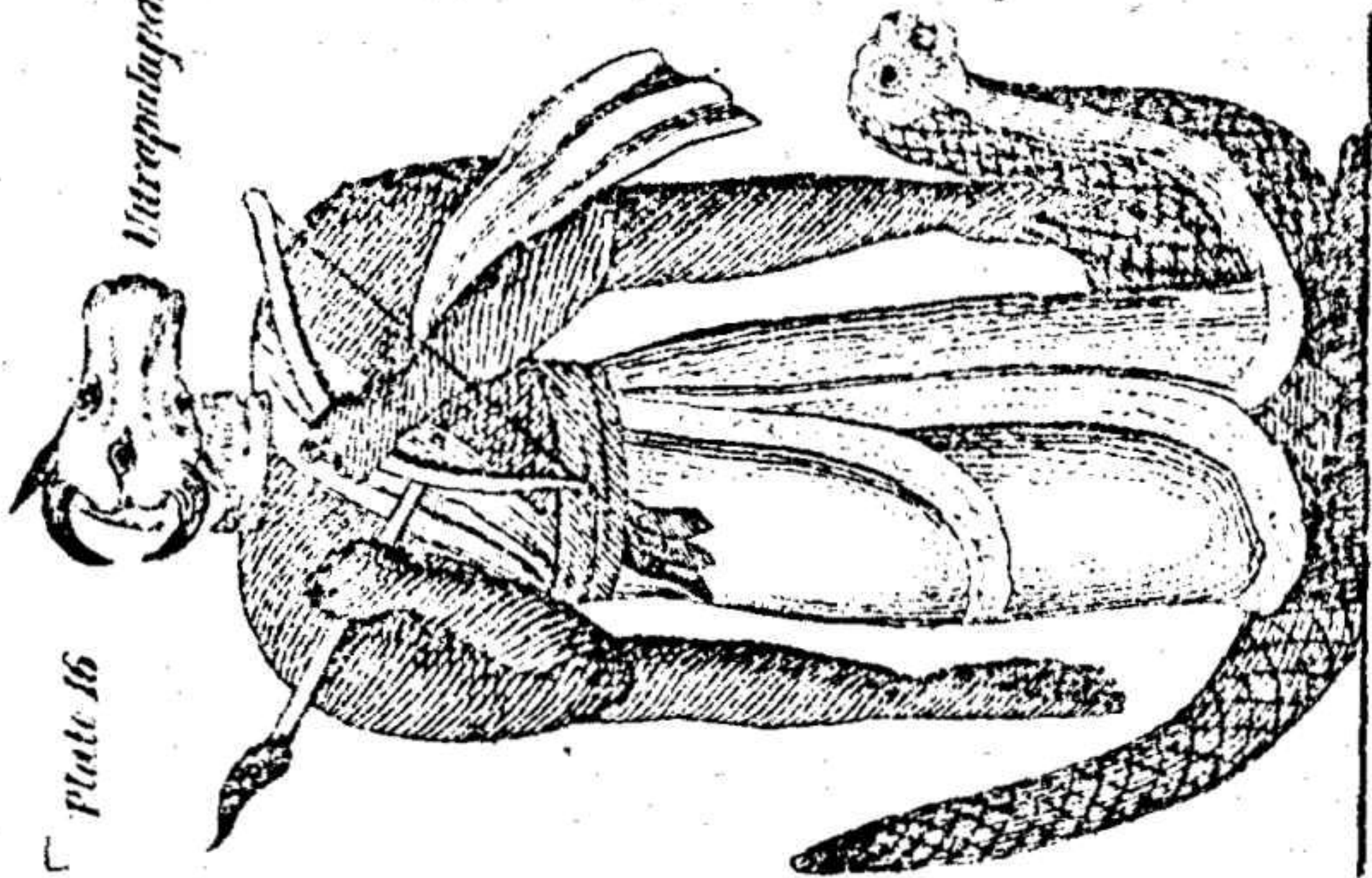


Plate 16

Plate 16



Utropulupah



never to communicate to the people any part of what had been revealed to them. Does not Herodotus often tell us that he is permitted upon no account whatever to reveal the names nor the honors that were destined and annexed to certain deities, or what these deities were. The secrets being inviolable, are we to wonder that they have not explained themselves, and *can we judge* of what *they* have not revealed.”\*

And now it is necessary to offer a few explanations respecting the antiquities of ASTRONOMY, inasmuch as I repeat that *true masonry is nothing more nor less than a perfect knowledge of that science, subject to certain rules and laws governed by the mysterious triple-tau and double triangle*, worn by every Royal Arch Companion.

Without referring to Ptolemy and Hipparchus and such like astronomers, let me draw your attention to Job, now believed to be the most ancient of all writers. In his sacred work he mentions Mazzaroth, which means “the Zodiac or twelve signs.†” The Pleiades are to be found in the neck of Taurus the Bull in every good celestial atlas ever published, and the bands of Orion are now visible to us every evening. Arcturus is the name to this day of the brilliant in the constellation called Bootes. Can any one doubt the antiquity of astronomy, with such proofs before them? And what of the Zodiac? Does not the very name remind us of astrology, demonology, etc. The Zodiac *modern* astronomers denounce as being “*the rude invention of ignorant men;*” but regarding the ignorance of astronomers, I shall have to direct your attention in my next lecture. Suffice, then, the Zodiac is the root or basis of all ancient knowledge, whether historical or astronomical. Although the Masonic body were never accused of being conjurors, yet the Zodiacal belt was claimed by the dealers in magic. This mysterious cabalistic circle is found very nearly the same as we have it among the antiquities of Central Mexico: it is sacred among the Budhists, Hindoos and Mahomedans. The Egyptians had the mystic signs amongst their sacred monuments; the Greeks possessed the Zodiac, and so did the Romans. The Hebrew months are now named according to the twelve signs, and, what is more, every one of the twelve tribes carried a standard, on which was pictured one of the

\* Page 261.

† Job xxviii. 31, 32.—“Canst thou bind the sweet influences of Pleiades, or loose the bands of Orion? Canst thou bring forth Mazzaroth in his season? or canst thou guide Arcturus with his sons?”



signs; and in the east is Aries at sunrise and "Nisan," the Hebrew name of Aries, means "standard."

*Numbers* i. 52, 53.—"And the children of Israel shall pitch their tents, every man by his own camp, and every man by his own standard, throughout their hosts." *Numbers* ii. 3.—"And on the east side toward the rising of the sun shall they of the standard of the camp of Judah pitch throughout their armies."

*Numbers* ii. 10, 18, 25.—"On the south side shall be the standard of the camp of Reuben according to their armies. On the west side shall be the standard of the camp of Ephraim according to their armies. The standard of the camp of Dan shall be on the north side by their armies."

Every astronomer in the world is guided by calculations according to these signs, and even *modern* Freemasons ignorantly respect them, for they are pictured on the ceiling of the English Grand Lodge of London.

We next come to an inquiry respecting the transmigration of souls, and I shall offer such evidence as I think will satisfy you as to what was anciently understood by Metempsychosis and Metamorphoses. To make this clearly understood, I will give a short extract from *Faber on Pagan Idolatry*:—"It was an axiom in ancient Paganism, throughout all its branches, that whatever was done or suffered by the chief demon god should also be mystically done and suffered by the aspirant in his progress to an ideal perfection, hence since the various elements were each a form of the deity, since he lived in every vegetable, and had tenanted the body of every animal, the aspirant must revolve through a similar circle of perpetual change, ere he had attained a complete likeness to the god whom he venerated."

Transmigration seems to have been a favourite doctrine of most nations, and among many formed a portion of their religious creed. Herodotus, alluding to Pythagoras, says, that "the Egyptians had a conception of a *Hades*, and taught that the soul of man, after the death of the body, passed into some other animal which was born opportunely to receive it. That it transmigrated through all the creatures which inhabit the sea, the land, and the air; and that having performed this circuit in three thousand years, it again entered a human body." The passage seems to have been misunderstood by authors, and yet when the true interpretation is given, it is clear enough. The Budhists (whose religion, like that of the Egyptians, is based on astronomy) held the doctrine of Metempsychosis; with them, Budha Gaudma is transmigrated through the



whole circle of creation, through all the existence of sea, land and air, and as having lived in *every* relation of human life. The similarity between the transmigration and the Metempsychosis of the Egyptians and Budhists, appears at first sight remarkable, but how can it be otherwise when the doctrines of both are founded on celestial truths? The sun is always personified as a man, and invariably has the human face. Budha is the Sun-king or God in the sign of Aquarius; the meaning of his name is, "Father of Water;" and to assimilate him to the mythology of the Greeks, he may be said to be the Jupiter Serapis. We all know Jupiter's place is in heaven, and that Jupiter was made man, and came down from heaven and visited the earth. The Maha-Vansi, referring to the birth of the Budha, represents Gaudma as having performed the entire circle or round of the Metempsychosis, and having successively animated all the destined vehicles of animal forms, and passed into a final state of existence in the heavenly TOSITE, preparatory to his birth as Budha. The legend thus proceeds: "Our gracious Budha, being in the heavens, resolved, at the prayer of the gods and men, to become man; and considering what tribe was proper for his birth, he perceived that the sun-descended tribe Maha-Samata was superior, and that this tribe would be suitable for his birth; moreover, because he himself was of that tribe in his former existence, and reigned as king.\*" The sun-king having ascended to heaven, after traversing and animating all nature, in heaven, on earth, in the water, and in the air, in his annular course comes down from heaven, which is the glorious summer solstice, to earth at the winter solstice, from whence as young Osiris he originally emanated. The Pythagoreans, then, after his descent describe him as retiring to a cave in a mountain; this cave may be found throughout all mythology, whether it be within the Caucasus or burning mountain, the sepulchrum of the Egyptians, or the Maha Meru with the cave sign Markere of the Budhists, &c. There is an old sculpture, representing the sun as Auriga the charioteer with the whip in his hand. He is on the summit of the mount, in which beneath is represented a cavern; on one side is the goat of Auriga, and on the other side is Taurus. It is the sun in heaven! The sun-king, ruler of the wandering planets, as he traverses the zodiacal signs, animates all nature; he is "the spirit of life," and rules as sovereign lord in all the twelve palaces of the Zodiac. From

\* Upham, p. 28.



Aries he proceeds to Taurus, and from Taurus to the Gemini, as will be presently explained. But not only does his influence pervade throughout the whole heaven, but the earth also. Every object in nature is dependent on the sun; he is the regenerator. Were he to remain absent from us, all nature would cease, and universal destruction would follow. The *Hades* (that uncertain state), the passage of the Styx, or river of judgment, all symbolise the sun, or spirit of life traversing, slumbering, or dying at the winter solstice, before he rises again. It is from thence is derived the belief in the soul atoning for the past offences of the animal bodies through which it passed; it is the intermediate state—it is the *Infernis*, and astronomically may be interpreted as the *regnum saturnii* or Saturnalia, or the five dies *non* at the expiration of the solar year. No wonder, therefore, that the greater portion of mankind openly worship the sun as the Great Creator, and this accounts for the universal brotherhood of astronomical masons, representing the Worshipful Master as the personified sun rising in the east to enlighten the Lodge.

Probably the best informed author that ever treated on the mythology of the ancients, was the Abbé Pluche; his chief work, from which I have already quoted, is the “History of the Heavens considered according to the notion of the Ancients, compared with the Doctrines of Moses.” Pluche was evidently no astronomer, nor did he belong to the Order of Masons. He approaches the hidden mysteries nearer than any other authors, but then we must not forget that his work is a compilation from writers who were initiated, and knew well what they were writing about. Pluche tells us that Osiris was the sun, “that Ammon, by a stupid kind of love, was confounded with God and with Osiris, or the star moderator of Seasons, and became the famous Jove Ammon, or the Jupiter Ammon.”\* He, however, does not tell us that Ammon is the Egyptian sign Aries, or that the sun in Ammon is Jupiter Ammon; *he knew it not*. He further states, “they every day said (and this was the ancient dialect of astronomy, and perfectly agreeable to the characters of the sacred writings) that the governor of the earth (Osiris the sun) had left the rain to enter into the bull, and that he would afterwards pass into the kids, the crab, the lion, and so of the other signs of the zodiac.”† His (Jupiter’s) soul they said when it went out of his body first entered into the ram, then into a bull, a goat, and thus

\* *History of the Heavens*, p. 101.

† Page 242.



passed from one animal into another till he had taken possession of the sun, where he now reigns, and from whence he casts gracious eyes on Egypt."\* The kids are the children,—the Gemini, and the sun advances (as described through the zodiac), but Pluche, not being master of the mysteries, knew not that next to Taurus comes the constellation of Auriga, with the goat and two kids or lambs on his arm and in his bosom. Evidently this constellation is but a copy from Isaiah.† Pluche knew not that astronomers in his time, as they do to this day, place the type of the sign Gemini ( $\Pi$ ) with the kids of Auriga, and when describing the soul of Osiris wandering, he says, from the ram it entered the bull, then into a *goat*; this is true, although he knew it not, for the goat as described is *next* to Taurus, *but that goat is not a zodiacal sign!* The *sign* of the *goat*, or Capricornus, being opposite; and let me here observe, that this goat, wherein Pluche says Osiris now reigns, denoted the summer solstice in ancient times, but I assert that with the Masonic keys, the goat, or rather one of the lambs, denotes the summer solstice for THIS YEAR A.D. 1862; and, moreover, gives the precise date of the cycle of the Hebrews, which this year is 5622, and this I guarantee to prove whenever called upon. Faber says,\* "In consequence of the Great Father and Great Mother being supposed to have assumed the forms of all animals, they were sometimes expressly called by the names of those animals, which were now become their symbols. Thus we find them severally denominated, according to their sexual difference, a *bull*, a *dragon*, a *cock*, a *hen*, a *bee*, or a *dog*. And as their priests or priestesses assumed upon all occasions the titles of the deities whom they served, and laboured to exhibit, in their own persons each action or suffering which was attributed to them, we also find that the ministers were designated by the names of those animals through which both their gods and themselves were feigned to have passed by a mystic transmigration. Thus they were called similarly, allowing for sexual difference, *horses*, *mares*, *bees*, *ravens*, *doves*, *lions*, *dogs*, and *swine*. I think it probable, from some circumstances, that in the celebration of the *mysteries* they wore grotesque masks, by means of which they actually appeared, like the sculptured forms of some of their gods, to be human beings

\* Page 242.

† Isaiah xl. 11.—"He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom."

‡ Page 51, chap. 1.



deformed, by bearing the heads of the sacred animals. Such was the wisdom of Egypt and of the children of the east!"\* Pluche tells us, "Nothing was so gross, so pitiful, as the historical sense which the people afterwards annexed to this astronomical language," (that is, of the passage of the sun through the twelve houses of the zodiac) "and such is evidently the ridiculous doctrine of the transmigration of souls which Pythagoras brought back to Italy as a rare discovery."\* We shall presently see that there is nothing "gross or pitiful" in transmigration, when it is properly understood.

All astronomers commence the solar year in Aries; the sun then rises in the east to enlighten the world, and on St. JOHN'S DAY (which the Masonic keys prove to be in the first degree of Aries) then does the newly elected Worshipful Master rise in the east to enlighten his Lodge. Then is the sun on the equator, and the world is there divided; then is the sun on the Masonic tau or cross formed by the junction of ecliptic and equatorial circles; then is it equinox, equal night and consequently equal day. The Church of England, as near as may be, renders this astronomical point Easter *Sun-day*, as reference to the Common Prayer Book will explain. It is the period of the passover, or the sun passing over the line, and "the man bearing a pitcher of water," or Aquarius, otherwise Neptune, is always supposed to be guarding that imaginary circle, the equator. Most of us have been visited at the line by Neptune's representative, and have had to pay tribute to him previously to being allowed to shape our course for this colony. He is Neptune, the tax gatherer of the celestial gods, and he annually claims at the equinox the difference betwixt the solar and the astral time. But this is unintelligible except to astronomers.

The Egyptian name to the sign "Aries," as already stated, is Ammon or Omon. Jupiter is generally admitted to be the sun,†—place the sun in Aries, and add to his Greek name that of the Egyptian *Ammon*, and there we have the sun metamorphosed or transmigrated into Jupiter Ammon; and whenever pictured, Jupiter Ammon is represented with the down-horn of the ram Aries on his head.

\* Page 242.

† Faber, p. 42.—"Jupiter was alike the beginning and the end, the head and the middle: the earth, heaven, air, fire, the sea, the sun, and the moon, were each equally and alike Jupiter."

Lucan puts into the mouth of Cato, in his well-known speech concerning the Ammonian oracle: "*Jupiter is, wherever we look, wherever we move.*"



There are, perhaps, some persons present who have read with interest the History of the Ancient Egyptians, and these know well that one of the great rulers of Egypt was Ammoun or Ammon-ra, or Roi or King, so then again is Ammon-roï,—the sun in Aries the sun-king! Jupiter Serapis has a water-pot on his head, with which he is invariably pictured; indeed, Jupiter Serapis without the canob, which is the Egyptian Aquarius, would be unmeaning. Serapis or Sarapis means, “the retreat of Apis,” and when Apis was drowned in the river Nile or Nihil, then passed the sun into the sign Aquarius,—another metamorphose, for he there becomes Jupiter Serapis. Coleman gives Agni mounted on the ram: did not Agnus Dei afford the authority for the Hindoo Agni on Aries? But what has all this to do with Masonry? Why, I have been explaining these things as if all present were masters of the Astro-Masonic knowledge, which, unfortunately for Masons, is not the case. Well, then, to come home to the Brethren—they all know Hiram was the chief builder of the Temple of Solomon, and that Masons were employed in the building, and the Masons were said to “*hew wrought* stone to build the temple; and the house, when it was in the building, was built of stone, made ready before it was brought thither, so that there was neither hammer, nor axe, nor any tool of iron, heard while it was in building.” The work of the mason, taken in a terrestrial sense, would be very light, for the stones were already hewn for them, and iron tools were not required: but Solomon’s working masons were in truth astronomers,—builders in heavenly gems. What can be more beautiful than this passage from the Revelations.

*Revelations* xxi. 21, 22.—“And the building of the wall of it was of jasper, and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass, and the foundation of the walls of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones, and the twelve gates were twelve pearls, every several gate was of one pearl.”

Can there be any doubt about Masonry relating to the heavens? I now assert, without any hesitation whatever, that every ceremony of Masonry is traceable in a good celestial atlas; that every true and perfect Mason ought to be able to prove that the lost mysteries of Masonry are recorded in the heavens, and that Hiram, the Grand Master builder, was employed in erecting the Temple to the Architect of the Universe; that the building was begun on the first of the sacred month Nisan or Aries, or Omon of the Egyptians; then rose the sun in the east as does the Worshipful



Master, and as Sol means the sun, is there any doubt about the Temple of Solomon being erected and registered in heaven?

The next sign to Aries on the zodiac is Taurus; and then Jupiter, the sun, migrates, and becomes metamorphosed into a bull, and in this form fable tells us he became acquainted with Europa. The moon, Juno, Jupiter's wife, when in Taurus became ox-eyed with the bull's eye, the brilliants of Aldebaran. When Apis of Egypt was sacrificed by drowning or otherwise, then did he ascend to heaven, and Apis is the Egyptian name of the sign Taurus.

Metempsychosis conveys the souls or spirits of the sun and planetary gods into the Gemini, the next sign, and these are usually designated as Castor and Pollux by the Greeks, and by the Egyptians as Hercules and Apollo.

The sun retires to rest at the autumnal equinox, with the virgin Virgo or Isis of the Egyptians. Isis is generally represented with ears of corn in her hand; Virgo is never represented without the ears of corn; besides, in her sign of Isis or Virgo there is a sheaf of corn, and fable represents her as letting fall the sheaf, and thus the seeds became scattered in the heavens: this took place when Isis or Virgo was escaping from the monster Typhon, which is the Egyptian name of the accursed sign Scorpio.

Canopus or Canopus is the Egyptian sign Aquarius, and is represented by a man bearing a pitcher of water; but there is also a Canopus in heaven; it is the brilliant in the steer oar or helm of Argo, and most schoolboys know that Canopus was the pilot of Argo, and would consequently command the helm. These references I consider sufficient to prove that the EGYPTIAN signs of the zodiac were the same as those of *this date*: and if modern Masons claim their mystic knowledge from the Egyptians, then MUST the Brethren admit that their knowledge must be astronomical. Before leaving the zodiac, one reference is necessary to the Greek mythology. The Greek name of the sign Capricornus is Pan, and denotes mid-winter for the north; the year is over; the sun-king dies; THE GREEK PAN IS DEAD, and Montfaucon, in his Antiquities, gives the demise of the sun when metamorphosed into Capricorn. Young Cupid as Osiris, or the Infant Sun, is putting in force one of the penalties of Masonry; that is, he is tearing out his heart. Pan is always pictured with upright horns and goats' feet; Capricornus has invariably upright horns and goats' fore feet. The horned goat, the sea goat, the deer, are all names given to this



sign, but when pictured it is invariably half goat and half fish. When the sun is at midwinter solstice, then are the northern deities in their full glory, and these Roman Gods constitute the Pantheon of the eternal city.

The next Lecture will consist of descriptions and explanations of the Eleusinian Mysteries as relating to Royal Arch Masonry. The astronomical origin of the months, weeks, and days pointing out that the last efforts of the Masons to screen their systems were without reason, and highly detrimental to the knowledge of society.

